

## REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on January 28, 2008, restriction was required to either claims 1-5, 8-10, 17-21, 28, 30, 31 and 36 of Group I or claims 43-45 and 51-55 of Group II; objections were made to claims 1-5, 8-10, 17-21, 28, 30, 31 and 36; claims 1-5, 8-10, 17, 28, 30, 31 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Smith; and claims 18-21 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant hereby confirms the election of claims 1-5, 8-10, 17-21, 28, 30, 31 and 36 without traverse. In view of this election, claims 43-45 and 51-55 of Group II have been cancelled.

The Office action raised a minor formal issue with claims 1 and 28. Independent claims 1 and 28 have been amended to recite "an ocean surface" and "an ocean bottom" for purposes of addressing that minor formal issue and thereby overcoming the claim objections. Those amendments do not alter the original scope of the claims.

Newly-added claims 56-59 are patentable for at least the same reasons as independent claims 1 and 28, as discussed below.

The system of independent claim 1 includes a riser, a landing string and a line. The riser extends from a platform adjacent an ocean surface towards an ocean bottom. The landing string extends within the riser from the platform towards the ocean bottom. The line extends along at least part of a length of the landing string and includes a distributed sensor system for sensing a parameter at various points along the length of the landing string.

Smith fails to teach all limitations of claim 1 and for at least this reason, fails to anticipate this claim.. In the language and figures of Smith cited by the Examiner, Smith discloses hydraulic tubing strings (*see, for example*, the tubing strings 16 of Fig. 2 and 16a of Fig. 3), which may contain optical fibers. However, the cited language fails to teach or even suggest at least the combination of a riser, landing string and a line that extends along the length of the landing string in the context of the present application.

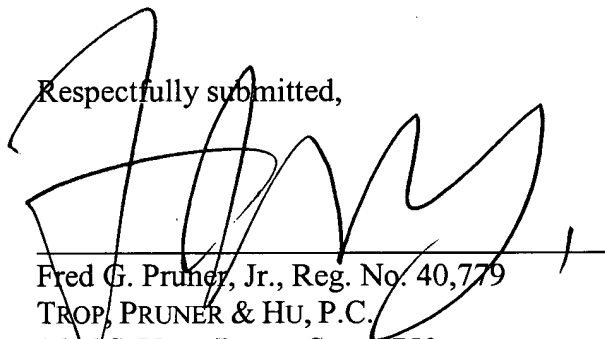
Similarly, the method of independent claim 28 recites deploying a line along at least part of a length of a landing string that is deployed within a riser, which is neither taught nor even suggested by Smith. Therefore, for at least this reason, Smith fails to anticipate independent claim 28.

Dependent claims 2-5, 8-10, 17-21, 30, 31, 36 and 56-59 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable claims.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 102 rejections and a favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (SHL.0308US).

Respectfully submitted,



Date: April 28, 2008

Fred G. Pruner, Jr., Reg. No. 40,779  
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.  
1616 S. VOSS ROAD, SUITE 750  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77057  
713/468-8880 [Phone]  
713/468-8883 [Fax]